

Message Text

SECRET

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TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 238297

NODIS
FOR AMBASSADOR BYRNE

E.O. 11652: EX/GDS

TAGS:EFIN, EGEN, CPRS, CZ, US

SUBJECT:CHNOUPEK-VANCE MEETING AT UNGA, OCTOBER 6

DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS, OCTOBER 4

1. AS RESULT OF REQUEST MADE DIRECTLY BY CZECHOSLOVAK
DELEGATION IN NEW YORK, SECRETARY VANCE HAS AGREED TO
HAVE BILATERAL MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK.
MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR 9:30 AM, THURSDAY, OCTO-
BER 6, IN NEW YORK AND IS SCHEDULED TO LAST THIRTY MIN-
UTES.

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2. CZECHOSLOVAKS HAVE NOT RPT NOT GIVEN ANY INDICATION TO
US AS TO WHAT CHNOUPEK WISHES TO DISCUSS; WHILE IT IS
CONCEIVABLE CHNOUPEK MIGHT WISH TO CONVEY SPECIFIC RESPONSE
TO APPROACH YOU MADE TO HIM ON SEPTEMBER 12 REGARDING
CLAIMS/GOLD, WE THINK IT UNLIKELY BECAUSE, GIVEN NATURE
OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM, WE BELIEVE HE WILL WANT TO
RESPOND DIRECTLY TO YOU. HOWEVER, INASMUCH AS HE MAY HAVE

HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS HIS CONVERSATION WITH YOU WITH STROUGAL AND PERHAPS HUSAK AS WELL DURING THEIR TRIP TO HUNGARY, SEPTEMBER 14-16, HE COULD MAKE SUCH A RESPONSE. HOWEVER, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER HE DOES OR NOT, WE WANT TO MAINTAIN LOCUS OF GOC-USG DISCUSSIONS IN PRAGUE WITH YOU

PERSONALLY DOING THE EXPLORATORY EFFORTS. THEREFORE, WE SEE PRIMARY UTILITY OF THE OCTOBER 6 BILATERAL AS REINFORCEMENT OF YOUR HAND, MAKING CLEAR TO CHNOUPEK THAT YOU HAVE FULL BACKING OF THE SECRETARY IN YOUR EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE CLAIMS/GOLD PROBLEM.

3. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, WE PLAN TO RECOMMEND THAT THE SECRETARY TAKE FOLLOWING LINE WITH CHNOUPEK:

(A) WE WOULD LIKE TO RESOLVE CLAIMS/GOLD PROBLEM ONCE AND FOR ALL.

(B) AMBASSADOR BYRNE HAS OUR FULL SUPPORT AND CONFIDENCE IN HIS EFFORTS TO EXPLORE ALL POSSIBLE AVENUES TO REACH SUCH A SOLUTION. I KNOW THAT YOU AND HE RECENTLY DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM IN DETAIL. WE WILL CONTINUE TO RELY UPON HIM TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE MEANS TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU.

4. ON GENERAL STATE OF RELATIONS, WE PLAN TO SUGGEST THE SECRET

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SECRETARY COMMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

(A) WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE PROGRESS IN US-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS. THE UPCOMING VISIT OF DEPUTY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER JAKUBEC AND THE PROGRESS RECENTLY MADE IN NEGOTIATING A PROGRAM DOCUMENT TO IMPLEMENT OUR CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AGREEMENT ARE SMALL BUT IMPORTANT STEPS IN THAT DIRECTION.

(B) RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIMS/GOLD ISSUE WILL FURTHER IMPROVE RELATIONS. HOWEVER, IT WILL BY NO MEANS RESOLVE ALL OF OUR PROBLEMS. THE IMAGE OF RECENT-DAY CZECHOSLOVAKIA -- AS SEEN IN THE US -- IS QUITE NEGATIVE AS A RESULT OF SUCH FACTORS AS THE TREATMENT BY YOUR AUTHORITIES OF CZECHOSLOVAKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CHARTER 77 MOVEMENT AND OF US JOURNALISTS. SO LONG AS SUCH AN IMAGE PERSISTS IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON THE ABOVE ESPECIALLY PARAS 2 AND 3. SINCE WE MUST CABLE BRIEFING MEMO TO THE SECRETARY VIA USUN, WE WILL NEED TO HAVE YOUR REPLY

NO LATER THAN OPENING OF BUSINESS (WASHINGTON TIME) ON
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5. CHRISTOPHER

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